

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 06841 182308Z

66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 036090

P 180610Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2195

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6841

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: RICHARDSON ARTICLE ON CAIRNS STATEMENTS.

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM AGE OF DEC. 18
BY MICHAEL RICHARDSON WHO VISITED HANOI WITH CAIRNS.
RICHARDSON, RESPECTED CORRESPONDENT, USES TAPE RECORDER,
THIS MAY BE FULLEST REPORT WE WILL GET.

"CAIRNS ROLE AS DEVIL'S ADVOCATE WAS COSTLY"
HANOI - ONE OF THE FATAL FLAWS OF DR. JIM CAIRNS AS A
POLITICIAN IS HIS INABILITY TO RECONCILE STRONGLY-HELD
PERSONAL CONVICTIONS WITH HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS A MEMBER
OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

AS A MAN HE HAS MANY ADMIRABLE QUALITIES. HE IS INTELLIGENT,
UNFAILINGLY COURTEOUS AND SENSITIVE TO MANY OF THE WORLD'S
ILLS.

BUT AS A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE HE CAN BE A DISASTER WHEN
HE SPEAKS OUTSIDE HIS OVERSEAS TRADE PORTFOLIO ON MATTERS
WHICH ENGAGE HIS MORAL FERVOR AS INTENSELY AS THE
VIETNAM WAR.

AS HE HIMSELF REMARKED AT VIENTIANE AIRPORT BEFORE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 06841 182308Z

FLYING TO HANOI AT THE START OF HIS FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL

VISIT LAST WEEK: "FOR THE BEST PART OF 10 YEARS I DEVOTED TWO-THIRDS OF MY TIME TO THE WAR - READING, THINKING AND WRITING ABOUT IT."

HE CAMPAIGNED ON THIS ISSUE AGAINST THE MAINSTREAM OF AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND IN THE FACE OF RIDICULE, ABUSE AND SOMETIMES VIOLENCE UNTIL THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN JANUARY BROUGHT AN END TO DIRECT U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, LEAVING THE VIETNAMESE TO SETTLE THEIR PROTRACTED AND COMPLEX STRUGGLE THEMSELVES, HOPEFULLY WITH A MINIMUM OF BLOOD SHED. IT WAS, THEREFORE, ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT HE WOULD GO TO HANOI AS A PARTISAN OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT: AND HE WAS GREETED AND TREATED AS SUCH.

THE TENOR OF HIS VISIT WAS SET IN A SPEECH HE GAVE AT A DINNER IN HIS HONOR ON THE NIGHT OF HIS ARRIVAL:
"IT IS MY FIRST CONCERN TO STRENGTHEN GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND AUSTRALIA.
"IN THE PAST AUSTRALIAN WERE INVOLVED IN MAKING WAR UPON YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PEOPLE.
"THIS MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN. AS LONG AS A GOVERNMENT DRAWN FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS IN OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
"THE PAST DIVISIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WAR OF DESTRUCTION UPON YOUR COUNTRY IS TO BE REGRETTED BECAUSE THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE WERE UNABLE TO SEE THEY WERE IN NO WAY THREATENED BY THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM WHOM THEY ATTACHED."

DR. CAIRNS WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE INVOLVED IN A GREAT MOVEMENT OF LIBERATION FROM FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION BY FRENCH, JAPANESE AND THEN AMERICAN FORCES WHICH BEGAN AS LONG AGO AT 1867.
"YOUR DEDICATION TO THIS RIGHT HAS PRODUCED COURAGE AND TENACITY RARELY EQUALLED IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CONFLICT.
"YOUR PEOPLE FOUGHT WITH LITTLE MORE THAN THE MEANS CREATED BY YOUR OWN HANDS AND THEN WITH AID FROM FRATERNAL COUNTRIES WHICH WAS ALWAYS LESS THAN THE POWER BROUGHT TO BEAR IN THE ATTACK UPON YOU.
"AND YOU WERE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE GREATEST FIREPOWER YET
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 06841 182308Z

USED IN MODERN WARFARE.
"PEACE WAS NO MORE PRECIOUS AND DESIREABLE IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD THAN IT WAS IN VIETNAM BUT PEACE COULD NEVER BE POSSIBLE WHILST THIS DESTRUCTION CONTINUED AND WHILST THE ASPIRATIONS OF YOUR PEOPLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND UNITY WERE DENIED."

THIS THEME WAS REPEATED AND ELABORATED ON TWO OTHER OCCASIONS

WHEN DR. CAIRNS SPOKE TO A VIETNAMESE AUDIENCE WHEN BOTH I
AND AN ABC REPORTER WERE PRESENT.
THE FIRST WAS HIS HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE PREMIER (MR. PHAM VAN DONG); THE SECOND AT A
FAREWELL DINNER HE GAVE FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FINANCE
MINISTER (MR. DANG VIET CHAU) AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION.
IN BOTH CASES HE CONDEMNED AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION;
CHARGED THAT SUCCESSIVE NONCOMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH
VIETNAM WERE U.S. CREATED PUPPETS; AND PRAISED THE LONG
FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO HALVES
OF VIETNAM CARRIED ON BY THE "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE".

THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT,
WHICH AUSTRALIA UNDER LABOR CONTINUES TO RECOGNISE,
LACKS BOTH LEGITIMACY AND SUBSTANTIAL POPULAR BACKING;
AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WERE
ENSHRINED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNIST-RUN GOVERNMENT
IN HANOI AND THE VARIOUS COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED POLITICAL
AND MILITARY ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

DR. CAIRNS TOLD PREMIER DONG THAT MR. WHITLAM AND THE
LABOR GOVERNMENT WERE CONVINCED THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT
MUST BE IMPLEMENTED. THEY WOULD SUPPORT A CEASEFIRE BY
BOTH SIDES IN THE SOUTH AND WOULD BE CRITICAL OF ANY
BREACHES BY EITHER SIDE.

BUT HE ADDED: "IN MY OPINION YOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS TO HAVE
IT (THE PARIS AGREEMENT) IMPLEMENTED ... BUT I DO NOT THINK
IT'S IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN SAIGON TO
HAVE THE AGREEMENT CARRIED OUT."

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF SUCCESSIVE U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS
SINCE 1953 (THE YEAR BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DIVIDED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 06841 182308Z

VIETNAM AT THE 17TH PARALLEL ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A
TEMPORARY BASIS) WAS TO RETA
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMISTICE, PERSONAL OPINION, JOURNALISTS, VISITS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER06841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731219/aaaaanxg.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Dec-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICHARDSON ARTICLE ON CAIRNS STATEMENTS. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM AGE OF DEC. 18
TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, VN, VS, (RICHARDSON, MICHAEL), (CAIRNS, JAMES F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005